



Maple Hill FARMS INC.

WM E. MILLER & SONS

MILK AND ICE CREAM VENDING *Specialists*

NB- 6424

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Mr. Chairmen and Commerce Committee:

My name is Scott Miller. I am Vice President and co owner of Maple Hill Farms which is located in Bloomfield. Maple Hill Farms was founded in 1928 by my grandfather William Miller. It was a small dairy farm that sold milk house to house. (Remember those milk boxes?) His three sons Bill, Bob and Rich also worked the farm and in the sixties started the vending operation. Now Maple Hill Farms is run by my brother Bill and me.

We specialize in selling milk and ice cream in vending machines. The full line vending operators use us for their dairy products and ice cream needs. The products we sell are exempt. I am here in support of our full line vending partners and the expanding of the exemption to candy, confectionary and soft drinks. We are partners. I need them to be financially sound. It will have a direct effect on my business. I could not imagine paying sales tax on our products. I do not think we would survive. My brother and I have both had to put in a lot of personal money to keep us viable.

The vending industry is in trouble. The cost of doing business has increased dramatically. Product, fuel, electric, insurances, trucks, labor and equipment costs have all gone up while sales are flat at best or are down.

Connecticut has lost many of the bread and butter manufacturing shops. Shops that employed hundreds of blue collar workers are scarce. White collar offices sell a fraction compared to blue collar shops.

These companies will still be paying their fair share of taxes. You have property tax on buildings, equipment (in every town they have machines) income taxes, fuel taxes.

By expanding this exemption this may help them give raises to their employees, buy new equipment, **pay their bills.**

I hope you will support the exemption it will have an immediate benefit to our industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Scott Miller
Vice President
Maple Hill Farms